Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W

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P R 090852Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY ECJ-4/7-SA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY USDAO ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
USDAO DAKAR
USDAO NDJAMENA
SECSTATE WASHDC 6415
SECDEF WASHDC ASD;ISA (SA) DSAA

CONFIDENTIAL OUAGADOUGOU 1070

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UVTJW ML

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TRAINING VISIT

REF: USCINCEUR 080901Z MAR 78

- 1. I FIND IT RATHER DIFFICULT TO CONCUR IN A PROPOSED SCENARIO IN WHICH THE BEGINNING OF A MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PRO-WESTERN UPPER VOLTA WOULD BE PUT ON THE SHELF UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI, WHICH IS REGULARLY RECEIVING SOVIET ARMS, IS READY TO RECEIVE A VISITING AMERICAN TEAM.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO THIS INITIAL UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF THE BUDGETARY TAIL WAGGING THE POLICY DOG, IT IS QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT AFTER MAY 1 THE SAME PRESSURE TO SQUEEZE BOTH COUNTRIES INTO THE SAME TRIP COULD OPERATE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PUT PRESSURE ON EMBASSY BAMAKO TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY EARLIER THAN DESIRABLE FROM A POLICY POINT OF VIEW.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO REINSTATE THE VISIT OF THE TEAM TO OUAGADOUGOU AS SCHEDULED AND ATTEMPT TO FIND ADDITIONAL

FUNDS FOR A TRIP TO BAMAKO WHEN THE SITUATION GOM CLEARS SUFFICIENL AND EMBASSY BAMAKO IS READY TO GO AHEAD.

4. ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE TRAINING PROGRAMS IS PURELY MILITARY, THE RATIONALE BEHIND THEM IS LARGELY POLITICAL. THERE MAY BE A NEED FOR MORE POLITICAL FINE-TUNING IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM THAN HAD BEEN ENVISAGED. I BELIEVE IN THIS CASE THERE IS A GOOD ARGUMENT FOR ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL TRAVEL FUNDS TO THE TRAINING SECTION TO ENABLE IT TO DEAL FLEXIBLY WITH DIVERSE POLITICAL SITUATIONS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: POLICY DECISION TO SEVER TANDEM CONNECTION IN ADMINISTRATION OF UPPER VOLTA AND MALI IMET PROGRAMS AND REINSTATEMENT OF MARCH TRAINING VISIT TO OUAGADOUGOU. BIGELOW

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Subject: REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TRAINING VISIT

TAGS: MASS, UV, ML, UR
To: USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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